

1993, was appointed Chief Fiscal Officer. The nonpartisan Joint Fiscal Office provides fiscal analysis, budget evaluation, performance oversight and fiscal policy support for the Appropriations, Finance, Ways & Means and Tax Committees and for the Vermont Legislature as a whole. In his capacity as Chief Fiscal Officer, Stephen has directed the budget and tax staff for the Vermont House and Senate for the past 28 years.

With rapid fire speech, Stephen has educated generations of Vermont legislators on the complexities of the Vermont budget process. As President Pro Tempore of the Vermont Senate, I had the pleasure of working with Stephen to craft budgets for the State of Vermont and, like many before and after me, marveled at his intricate knowledge of Vermont state government, tax policy, the budget, and the economy. Stephen has gained the trust of legislators through his facility with his subject matter and his generous willingness to explain it.

Stephen's contributions have extended beyond Vermont. He served as president of the National Association of Legislative Fiscal Offices in 1998 to 1999 and was a member of National Conference of State Legislatures' Executive Committee from 2002 to 2005. From 2009 to 2017, Stephen served on the Advisory Board of the New England Public Policy Center at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, providing advice on research content and direction to policy makers in the New England region. From 2014 to 2017 Stephen served on the Government Accounting Standards Advisory Committee.

In 2013, Stephen was the recipient of the Steven D. Gold Award, given annually by the National Tax Association, the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The 2013 award was presented by the NCSL. The award honors professionals who have made significant contributions to state and local fiscal policy.

In addition to his professional commitments, Stephen has volunteered tirelessly in his community, serving on the board of the local food cooperative in Montpelier, as Treasurer of the Green Mountain Club, and as Treasurer for the local synagogue. Stephen also serves as a guest lecturer at the Vermont Law School.

Mr. Klein attended the University of California, Berkeley; Massachusetts Institute of Technology; and Northeastern University School of Law. He served in the Peace Corps in the Dominican Republic and Honduras in the early 1970s.

Stephen's friendly demeanor, sage observations and ubiquitous presence have made him a well-known and welcome fixture under the Golden Dome. He will be greatly missed. I wish him all the best in his retirement and look forward to seeing him out on Vermont's hiking trails.

HONORING DWANA BRADLEY

**HON. CYNTHIA AXNE**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2021*

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dwana Bradley as Iowan of the Week. Dwana is a mother, a business owner, an ed-

ucator, and a long-time community advocate. She believes education is the key to life, which speaks to her passion and career as a teacher.

Dwana received a bachelor's degree in child and family services from Iowa State University, a master's degree in elementary education and literacy from Drake University, and a specialist's degree in administration. She went on to graduate from the Greater Des Moines Leadership Institute, and for almost seven years she worked as a reading interventionist with Des Moines Public Schools (DMPS) to help students reach their potential. In 2019, she was elected to the Des Moines School Board and currently serves as the chair of the board.

Dwana did not let the COVID-19 pandemic slow her drive to educate young Iowans. As chairwoman, she serves in an outreach role to help underserved communities attain higher education and is working to stem the negative impact of COVID-19 on students, especially those who were already struggling in school or falling behind.

Dwana also owns Iowa Urban Media, a community-focused publishing company, and is the editor-in-chief for the Urban Experience Magazine, a monthly publication that shares news in the African American community and seeks to empower voices through positivity. Her journalism promotes education, an open dialogue, and a space to have important conversations about issues affecting Iowans. She passionately believes that these conversations are a crucial step towards achieving justice.

In addition to her commendable career in education, Dwana is an active advocate. She is the executive director of Iowa Juneteenth and chairs a committee for Iowa Juneteenth Observance, volunteers on the DMPS attendance committee, and still makes time to direct the choir at True Bible Baptist Church.

As executive director of Iowa Juneteenth and chair on a committee for Iowa Juneteenth Observance, she helps put on events, educate the public, and celebrate with Iowans across the state for the annual commemoration of Juneteenth: the date the last enslaved African Americans were granted freedom in 1865, ending slavery in the United States. Just this week, Congress finally passed a bill to formally recognize Juneteenth National Independence Day as a federal holiday after decades of activism from Americans.

As we recently gathered to observe Juneteenth and join in community celebrations and educational events, let us thank Dwana and her team for their efforts to bring Iowans together to share stories, experiences, and history with one another. She is a fantastic educator, a proud voice in the community, and a fervent advocate for uplifting Iowans. Please join me in honoring Dwana Bradley as our Iowan of the Week.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRIAN J. MAST**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2021*

Mr. MAST. Madam Speaker, my flight into Washington, D.C. was delayed due to bad weather causing me to miss a vote on 7/19/2021. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 209.

REMEMBERING JASON G. THOMAS

**HON. STENY H. HOYER**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2021*

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Jason G. Thomas for his ten years of service with the House's Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Logistics & Support. It is with a heavy heart that I share the news that he passed away in September 2020 at the young age of forty. Jason was a constituent of mine from Maryland's Fifth District.

Jason began his career with the CAO in January 2015, joining the Logistics & Support group responsible for moving furniture and carrying out the massive effort every two years of moving offices during the Congressional transition. Prior to his time with the CAO, Jason worked with District Movers, where he gained a strong understanding of logistics and organization, which served him well in his House employment.

Among his many hobbies, Jason had a love of acting, he enjoyed mechanics, he was an avid football fan, and he proved a very talented drummer. He was a graduate of the Massanutten Military Academy. Jason's co-workers and friends remember him for his infectious smile and incessant positive attitude. Some of the sentiments they shared after he passed away included that: 'He was always smiling,' and 'What a great guy.' Also: 'He would always greet you with a smile and a hello and was such a light to be around.'

Prior to his death, Jason was being recognized for his exceptional service while confronting the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. He was tasked with helping to assist with the enormous job of processing the distribution of thousands of laptops and electronics to House Members and staff who were suddenly required to work remotely. The Asset Management Department specifically requested Jason by name, not only because of his talent but also because of his sunny disposition and positive attitude while performing his duties. He was soon to be recognized for his contribution to this effort by former Chief Administrative Officer Phil Kiko.

Jason lived in Clinton, Maryland, and is survived by his parents, Henry and Idena Thomas, his three sisters—Sonya, Tanya, and Yolanda—and his three young children, fourteen-year-old Kason, thirteen-year-old Juarez, and ten-year-old Karen.

Madam, Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Jason G. Thomas for his service and contributions to this House. I want to extend my heartfelt condolences to the Thomas family for their tremendous loss. The gifts of Jason's life and his tremendous dedication to service, family, and community will always be remembered.

HONORING COMMISSIONER DEAN COX

**HON. CHRIS STEWART**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 20, 2021*

Mr. STEWART. Madam Speaker, I rise to include in the RECORD a letter signed by the